

the Estonian cultural heritage. For 50 years, it has provided an independent voice for the Estonian people in their successful campaign for human rights and democracy in their homeland.

The Estonian American National Council combined the strong spirits of America and Estonia in its fight for Estonian independence. Forcibly annexed and occupied by the Soviet Union in 1940, Estonians could not speak freely for themselves in their own homeland. But as the leader of the free world, the United States never recognized the Soviet Union's oppressive regimes in Estonia or its Baltic neighbors, Latvia, and Lithuania. So with the start of the cold war, Americans of Estonian descent established their own organiza-

tion. Half a century later, I visited Estonia. I was so happy to see the tremendous strides the country was making toward developing its democratic and market-based systems. Estonia is proving its abilities through high-tech initiatives in everything from cellular phones to paperless government. I also appreciate the Baltic States' renewed senses of culture while respecting the rights of Russian-speaking minorities.

As a founding member of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, I applaud the work of the Estonian American National Council, a critical member of the Joint Baltic American National Committee. Together, America, Estonia and the other Baltic States are doing all they can in the war against terrorism. With America's support, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are already contributing to our mutual security by developing modern armed forces, air surveillance systems, and participating in peacekeeping activities. I believe Estonia and its Baltic partners will make a wonderful contribution to NATO.

Since Estonia achieved independence in 1991, the Estonian American National Council has been instrumental in bringing America and Estonia together to make both countries more secure. The council has funded scholarships, schools, cultural activities, youth programs and exchange missions that have enhanced the ties that it began to build between America and Estonia many years ago. I am proud of the partnerships Maryland had built with Estonia through our National Guard and their Armed Forces, and the trade between our great cities and ports.

Everywhere I look, America's interest in strengthening its ties with Estonia and the other Baltic States is growing. I congratulate the council on its 50th anniversary, and I send my best wishes to the Estonia American community in Maryland and nationwide. You can count on me to continue to help promote a closer and more comprehensive relationship between the United States and Estonia. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Estonian American National Council on its contributions to America and Estonia for the last 50 years.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 17, 1997, in Chicago, IL. Two minors pushed a gay man down a flight of stairs because of his sexual orientation. The assailants used anti-gay obscenities during the attack.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5118. An act to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-8005. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Report on Federal Agencies' Use of the Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) Program for 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8006. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8007. A communication from Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8008. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 14-404, "Tax Clarity and Recorder of Deeds Temporary Act of 2002"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8009. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8010. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management

Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph; Technical Amendment" (RIN0910-AA01) received on July 16, 2002; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8011. A communication from the Director, Corporation Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" received on July 16, 2002; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8012. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, received on June 26, 2002 referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8013. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Branch, Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Import Restrictions Imposed on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Material Originating in Cyprus" (RIN1515-AC86) received on July 16, 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8014. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Rev. Proc. 96-13" (Rev. Proc. 2002-52) received on July 14, 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8015. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Board of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Veterans' Appeals: Rules of Practice—Effect of Procedural Defects in Motions for Revision of Decisions on the Grounds of Clear and Unmistakable Error" (RIN2900-AK74) received on July 14, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-8016. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Board of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjudication; Fiduciary Activities—Nomenclature Changes" (RIN2900-AL10) received on July 14, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-8017. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Board of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy Regarding Participation in Natural Practitioner Data Bank" (RIN2900-AJ76) received on July 14, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-8018. A communication from the Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazard Communication (HazCom)" (RIN1219-AA47) received on July 14, 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8019. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Engineering and Operations Division, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prospecting for Minerals Other Than Oil,